

Add two section headings, a section subheading, and a paragraph immediately after the new title CLOSED MIXER WORKING PROCESS, WITH STROKE-CONTROL RAM, as follows:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

A1  
Applicants claim the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on patent application No. 01830112.7, filed February 19, 2001, in the European Patent Office; further, Applicants claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on prior-filed, copending provisional application No. 60/281,789, filed April 6, 2001, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; the contents of both of which are relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--

A2  
Page 1, line 9, add section subheading Description of the Related Art prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Closed mixers, also known as discontinuous mixers . . . ."

A3  
Page 2, line 26, add section heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "The present invention aims at providing a method . . . ."

A4  
Page 3, line 27, add section heading BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS-- prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "Further features and advantages . . . ."

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Page 4, line 16, add section heading DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE

**A5** PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS prior to the start of the paragraph beginning "With reference to the first figure . . . ."

Delete page 13 in its entirety. Add a new page ~~13~~ after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new, separate page 13 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is enclosed.

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**16** A closed mixer includes a mixing chamber, a pair of rotors, and a pressing ram. The pressing ram is movable between a resting condition, which allows introduction of material into the mixing chamber, and a working condition. A method of processing polymer-based mixtures and compounds in the closed mixer includes the steps of introducing material into the mixing chamber, moving the pressing ram from the resting condition to an upper end-of-stroke position, and moving the pressing ram from the upper end-of-stroke position to a lower end-of-stroke position. A position-time profile of the pressing ram is controlled during the step of moving the pressing ram from the upper end-of-stroke position to the lower end-of-stroke position.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-10, and add new claims 11-20, as follows:

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